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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



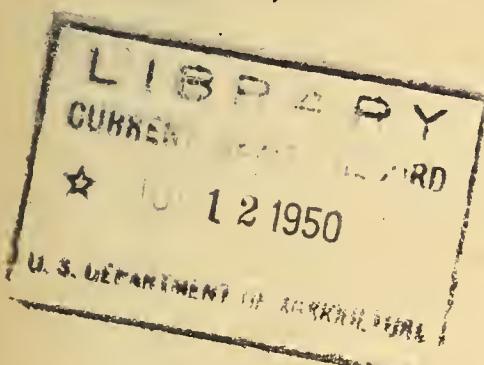
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

L A T E N E W S

Revised regulations affecting the shipment into India of cotton and cotton samples from the United States have lately been announced by the Government of India under authority of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act. Details of the new Indian regulations may be obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in port cities of the United States or directly from the Bureau at Washington. Request should be made for Circular BEPQ 404. Revised, Supplement No. 8, dated June 20, 1950.

The British Minister of Food announced that the bacon ration, which was reduced to 4 ounces a week from 5 ounces on April 23, 1950, would be restored to 5 ounces beginning June 18, 1950.

An outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease is reported to have occurred among cattle in the vicinity of Francistown, in northeastern Bechuanaland, British Protectorate in Africa. A complete embargo has been established on the movement of livestock from the Protectorate into the Transvaal. The embargo covers cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and the hides, skins and bones of these animals.

Venezuela will prohibit all poultry and eggs for hatching that originate in the United States, unless they are accompanied by a certificate signed by a State veterinarian and approved by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture attesting that the birds or eggs will not spread Newcastle disease.

(Continued on Page 14)

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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C O M M O D I T Y D E V E L O P M E N T S

TOBACCOHONDURAS' TOBACCO
PRODUCTION UP

Honduras' 1949-50 production of leaf tobacco is estimated at approximately 22 percent above the 1948-49 harvest, according to the American Consulate in San Pedro Sula. About 30 to 50 percent of the country's total leaf production is normally exported.

Leaf production in 1949-50 is unofficially estimated at about 15,000,000 pounds from 14,000 acres, compared with 12,291,000 pounds from 12,000 acres in 1948-49 and 13,243,000 pounds from 10,700 acres in 1947-48. Native dark types of leaf known as "Copan tobacco" account for almost the entire production. However, about 70,000 to 80,000 pounds of flue-cured leaf are also produced annually.

Most of Honduras' leaf production is either consumed domestically or exported to El Salvador. Normally, some is also exported to Guatemala. In 1949, it is estimated that 6,300,000 cigars and almost 28,000,000 packets of 20 cigarettes were manufactured in the country. A total of 4,623,000 pounds of leaf and 2,106,000 cigars were exported to El Salvador in 1949. The quantity moving to Guatemala is not known.

Considerable effort is being made to improve the quality of the tobacco grown in Honduras. A United States leaf expert is permanently employed to advise and instruct growers in the cultivation and curing of leaf. The program includes the use of demonstrations and other educational methods to acquaint tobacco growers with approved soil management and fertilizing practices, the use of farm machinery and other improved farming practices.

FINLAND'S TOBACCO IMPORTS
DOWN; CONSUMPTION INCREASES

Finland's 1949 imports of leaf tobacco were 70 percent below the record 1948 level, the American Legation in Helsinki reports. The 1949 consumption of leaf in the manufacture of tobacco products was approximately 9 percent above 1948.

Leaf imports in 1949 totaled 4,433,000 pounds, compared with the record 1948 imports of 14,618,000 pounds and 1947 imports totaling 6,823,000 pounds. The United States, Greece and Turkey were the chief sources of supply in 1949. These countries supplied 34, 25 and 16

percent, respectively, of total leaf imports. Other sources of substantial quantities of leaf include the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Italy, Brazil, India, Indonesia, the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia.

The quantity of leaf used in the manufacture of tobacco products in Finland in 1949 totaled 9,370,000 pounds, compared with 8,598,000 pounds in 1948 and 7,496,000 pounds in 1947. The 1949 factory output of the various types of tobacco products was as follows: Cigarettes, 4,232,000,000 pieces; cigars, 8,500,000 pieces and pipe tobacco, 1,521,000 pounds. This compares with the 1948 factory output of 4,166,000,000 cigarettes 6,200,000 cigars and 1,539,000 pounds of pipe tobacco.

FATS AND OILS

YUGOSLAVIAN FARMERS REQUIRED TO DELIVER LARD INSTEAD OF HOGS

Farmers in Yugoslavia now are required to deliver specific quantities of lard in 1950, instead of a specified number of hogs, according to the American Embassy, Belgrade. Whereas previously regulations called for deliveries of hogs--the number being determined essentially by size of farms--the provisions of the decree published in mid-May specify individual quotas of lard. The major changes incorporated in the recent announcement may be seen in the following tabulation:

Category	Arable Areas and Pasture Grounds	Required Deliveries	
		Formerly Number of hogs	Currently Kilograms of lard 2/
I	Up to 3 hectares	0-2	5-15
II	From 3 to 5 hectares	1-2	8-55
III	From 5 to 8 hectares	1-3	15-90
IV	From 8 to 10 hectares	2-4	20-120
V	From 10 to 15 hectares	3-6	30-145
VI	From 15 to 20 hectares	3-7	40-165
VII	From 20 hectares upward	4-8	40-165

1/ One hectare = 2.471 acres.

2/ One kilogram = 2.2046 pounds.

Actual quotas, within the range of tolerance allowed for each category of farm according to size, will be determined by the local people's committees on the basis of the following considerations:

(1) The number of livestock owned; (2) use of state and/or cooperative pastures; (3) economic strength of farm; (4) importance of livestock in the farm economy; (5) requirements of the household for livestock and products; (6) the number of members in the household.

These considerations are essentially what the previous regulations provided. Appeals may be made to the district people's committee which is obligated to announce its decisions, which will be considered final, within a period of 15 days. Thereafter, farm owners are required to sign agreements obligating themselves to make the indicated deliveries.

AUSTRALIA REPORTS OILSEED DEFICIT

Australia has a very large deficit so far as supplies of oilseeds and their products, vegetable oils and oilmeals, are concerned. The most important single source of Australian vegetable oil and meal is copra, which is imported primarily from New Guinea. War damage to the plantations and to port facilities in New Guinea was severe and the recovery in copra imports from there has been slow.

The most important domestically produced oilseed is the peanut, production of which is now well above prewar levels. The production of linseed, which was not grown commercially prewar, has been increasing at a very rapid rate and promises to top that of peanuts within a year or two. Sunflower seed production has also been increasing rather steadily but not at so spectacular a rate as linseed production. Olive production is increasing slowly as new groves come into bearing. Cottonseed production, however, has decreased almost to the vanishing point as cotton has found it difficult to compete with alternative crops. Soybeans, safflowers, and castor beans are being grown experimentally but not on a commercial scale. There are some young plantations of tung nuts which have not yet come into production, while wild candlenuts are collected in northern Queensland.

Altogether, however, there is a shortage of drying oils and a very severe shortage of oil cake for livestock feed. The production of exportable supplies of butter minimizes the need for edible vegetable oils and thus removes an incentive for increased production of such oils. The dairyman and poultryman, however, are sorely in need of oil meal which is a valuable joint product of the vegetable oil industry.

Over 98 percent of Australia's peanut output is produced in Queensland. During 1949-50 an estimated 12,500 short tons were produced compared with 11,200 the previous season and the 1942-47 average of about 14,000 tons. Imports of peanuts rose from a prewar average of 1,500 tons to a peak of 12,500, all from India, in 1944-45. Since 1946 when India banned peanut exports, Australian imports have been insignificant. Peanut oil imports have never been large.

The commercial production of flaxseed is comparatively new in Australia. Expansion toward the ultimate goal of 10 million bushels is now encouraged by the Government. In 1949 larger acreages were planted in all States and 1949-50 production is estimated at 242,840 bushels against 107,800 the previous season and the 1944-47 average of only 760 bushels. Production of commercial flaxseed as a by-product from the production of fiber flax is of very minor and decreasing importance in Australia, as the major portion of the seed recovered is used for seeding the next year's fiber flax crop.

As in previous years most of the 1948-49 imports of flaxseed, amounting to 730,700 bushels, came from India and the balance from New Zealand. Imports of linseed oil--of minor importance before and during the war--rose to the unprecedentedly high levels of 9,375 and 6,358 tons during 1948-49 and 1947-48, respectively.

Current crushing capacity of about 100,000 tons of flaxseed annually is more than ample for current supplies but probably will be inadequate a few years hence.

The continued shortage of vegetable oils and oil meals has encouraged and accelerated expansion of sunflower acreage and production during the postwar period. Queensland is by far the most important producing State, with over five-sixths of the acreage, but the smaller Victorian acreage is expanding at a nearly comparable rate. Production in 1949-50 is estimated at 2,850 tons against 1,850 in 1948-49 and only about 700 in 1943-44. Imports are currently insignificant and none is exported. Only very small quantities of sunflower seed oil are produced.

The bulk of Australia's olives are used for crushing. Most of the production comes from South Australia, although heavy plantings which took place in Victoria during 1946-47 should result in a major increase in that State in the near future. Total olive production in 1949-50 is placed at approximately 950 tons compared with around 350 tons the previous two seasons. Olive oil imports have been increasing. Over 850 tons were imported in 1948-49. Exports are relatively insignificant.

Cottonseed production from the 1949-50 crop is estimated at 450 tons compared with 240 from the 1948-49 crop. Oil production and trade are small.

Soybeans are of negligible importance as an oilseed crop in Australia. A number of other oilseeds, including candle nuts, tung nuts, safflower seed, and castor beans, are of potential importance in Australia, although current production is not yet significant.

Foreign trade in copra is at approximately prewar levels, both imports and exports having increased materially since 1946-47. Imports during 1948-49 of 32,683 tons came from New Guinea (88 percent), the Solomon Islands (11 percent), and Papua (1 percent), while all the exports -- 1,371 tons--went to the United States.

HAITI EXPECTED TO INCREASE IMPORTS OF LARD AND COOKING FATS

Haiti is expected to depend more heavily in the future on imported cooking oils and lard than in the past, according to the American Embassy, Port-au-Prince. The principal vegetable oil produced and consumed is cottonseed oil. This oil and lard (mostly imported) supply the bulk of the fats sold commercially for cooking purposes and for table use. The quantity of vegetable oil which is produced is dependent directly upon the size of the cotton crop. The quantity imported, in turn, depends upon the size of local production and the world market price for vegetable oil and lard.

This year's cotton crop is estimated to be the lowest in recent history, following a trend which has been generally downward over a long period of years. Cottonseed oil production thus will drop considerably from the 1949 outturn of approximately 680 short tons.

Very little coconut oil was produced commercially in Haiti during 1949. Production in 1948 and 1947, excluding that produced by peasants for direct household consumption, amounted to about 100 and 300 tons, respectively. In the region of Les Cayes there are considerably coconuts grown--probably enough to provide 5,000 nuts per week if prices were high enough so that they could be gathered and dried profitably.

Castor bean production amounted to about 2,600 tons during the fiscal year 1948-49 and 2,700 tons the preceding year. No castor beans are processed or utilized in Haiti. However, considerable quantities of peanuts, sesame, and cashew nuts are produced and utilized locally.

During 1948-49 Haiti exported 2,578 tons of castor beans, all to the United States, and 2,334 tons of cottonseed cake and meal, principally to Denmark. It also exported small quantities of dessicated coconut, cashew nuts, peanuts, and peanut cake.

Imports of lard and oils for table use increased markedly in 1948-49 over 1947-48. Lard imports went from 525 tons to 1,997 tons, while table oils increased from 69 to 740 tons. Imports of lard substitutes increased from 11 to 44 tons. There were few major changes in the principal sources of fats and oils in 1948-49 from the previous year except that Brazil became a major supplier of table oil. In the case of lard substitutes, the major portion came from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom whereas all imports in 1947-48 came from the United States.

The prices of cottonseed cake and of soap began to decline during the last quarter of 1949 and have dropped considerably since. Cottonseed oil prices have decreased consistently since the beginning of last year.

It can be expected that the heavy importation of lard and table oils will continue at current and even higher levels during the remainder of the year and in the near future if market prices of these products do not increase to prohibitive levels.

As a result of this situation and the continued decline in the cotton crop, local oil manufacturers are inquiring into the possibility of importing crude cottonseed oil from the United States for refining in local oil mills. Last year an experimental beginning was made by importing some crude oil from Puerto Rico. The success of this venture has led to the desire to import substantial quantities of crude oil from abroad.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

RECORD COTTON CROP HARVESTED IN ARGENTINA

The 1949-50 cotton crop in Argentina (harvesting is nearly completed) is estimated unofficially at 550,000 to 575,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight. This is about 25 percent larger than last year's crop of 450,000 bales and is at least as large as the record crop of 553,000 bales reported for 1943-44. Private sources place the 1949-50 acreage planted at 1,235,000 acres which also is a record figure for cotton. About 1,200,000 acres were planted in 1948-49.

Growing conditions were favorable in the early part of the season but the quality of the fiber was reduced considerably by excessive rainfall in April and May while harvesting was in process. An acute shortage of labor contributed to the injury suffered by the crop because of delay in harvesting. There is a keen interest in mechanical harvesting equipment but the scarcity of dollar exchange is expected to prevent any purchases for import in the near future. Degeneration of seed for planting was also mentioned as a factor partly responsible for the low quality of the current crop and last year's crop. New varieties needed for crossing with local stock have not been imported for a long time due to the dollar scarcity.

The export surplus from the current crop is estimated at 160,000 to 185,000 bales composed entirely of inferior grades. The Argentine mill industry normally uses the entire crop of the better grades and a small portion of the inferior grades. The carry-over of 240,000 bales, estimated for March 1, 1950, was composed largely of low-grade cotton. Nearly half of it may be considered as surplus available for export this year in addition to the surplus from the current crop.

Available trade data are incomplete but exports in 1950 are reported to be substantially larger than in 1949. Exports during the first 3 months of 1950 totaled 25,000 bales, including 8,000 to Japan, 8,000 to the United Kingdom, 2,000 to Belgium, and 2,000 to Spain. Most of the trade is being done through barter or other arrangements not involving the use of hard currency. About 9,000 bales of Type D cotton were reported sold to the British Government in May at 3.54 pesos per kilogram (33.23 cents a pound). f.o.b. Buenos Aires.

Imports of about 14,000 bales of long staple from Peru, estimated for 1950, will be nearly double those of other recent years.

Cotton mill consumption in Argentina is being maintained at a record level. It is estimated at 390,000 to 410,000 bales for 1950 with about 550,000 spindles operating in 34 mills. Manufacturers do not expect to obtain adequate supplies of Grades B, C, and D from the 1949-50 crop. The quantities of these grades produced in 1948-49 also were insufficient for local mill needs. They, as well as the growers, have expressed an interest in the need for importation of cottonseed in order to improve the quality and uniformity of the fiber.

Prices now being paid for seed cotton, Grade B, in producing areas range up to 1,000 pesos per metric ton (9.39 cents a pound). Support prices announced by the government late in March of 1950 for 1949-50 crop cotton (ginned) are listed below in comparison with market quotations at Buenos Aires on June 2, 1950.

Type	Government buying price		Market quotations	
	Pesos per metric ton	U.S. cents a pound	Pesos per metric ton	U.S. cents a pound
A	4,000	37.55	1/ 4,550	1/ 42.71
B	3,650	34.26	4,300	40.36
C	3,150	29.57	3,750	35.20
D	2,820	26.47	3,000	28.16
E	2,330	21.87	2,500	23.47
F	1,970	18.49	2,000	18.77

Camara Algodonera de Buenos Aires.

1/ Nominal.

The support prices for the 1949-50 crop are lower than for 1948-49 for Grades A, B, C, and D, and higher for Grades E and F. The 1948-49 support prices were 4,200 pesos per metric ton for Grade A, 4,000 for B, 3,500 for C, 3,100 for D, 2,150 for E, and 1,850 for F.

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS
ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the
U.S. gulf-port average

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1950	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good.....	6-29	99.05 lbs.	Tallari		(not quoted)
Ashmouni, F.G.F.....	"	"	"		(not quoted)
Karnak, Good.....	"	"	"	74.40	43.13
Karnak, F.G.F.....	"	"	"	67.90	39.36
Bombay		Candy			
Jarila, Fine.....	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	1/2/620.00	16.50
Broach Vijay, Fine.....	"	"	"	1/2/690.00	18.37
Karachi		Maund			
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine....	6-28	82.28 lbs.	"	78.80	28.89
289F Sind, S.G., Fine....	"	"	"	80.00	29.33
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine...	"	"	"	83.60	30.73
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B.....	6-29	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	4300.00	40.36
Lima		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5.....	6-28	101.4 lbs.	Sol	1/3/390.00	25.90
Pima, Type 1.....	"	"	"	2/ 480.00	31.87
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 4.....	"	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	2/ 215.00	35.37
Sertao, Type 5.....	"	"	"		(not available)
Sertao, Type 4.....	"	"	"	235.00	38.66
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	"	"	"	223.00	36.69
Torrecon		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16".....	6-29	101.4 lbs.	Peso	231.00	26.35
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"...	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	33.72

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable from U. S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

- 1/ Nominal.
- 2/ Corrections: Increased ceiling prices shown in issue of June 26 will not be effective until September 1, 1950. The correct ceiling prices for Jarila, Fine and Broach Vijay, Fine, June 22, remain at 620.00 rupees (16.50 U.S. cents) and 690.00 rupees (18.37), respectively. Quotation for Mata, Type 4, June 22, should be 215.00 cruzeiros (35.37) instead of 210.00 cruzeiros.
- 3/ Quotations June 22, Tanguis, Type 5, 395.00 soles (25.71); Pima, Type 1, 480.00 soles (31.24).

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDSCANADIAN GRAIN
CROP OUTLOOK

The outlook for crops in the grain belt of Canada showed considerable variation at last report, in late June. Conditions remained very dry in Alberta, with rainfall received there since the first of April only about half of normal. Crops were holding in fair condition in most areas, but deterioration had started in central and southcentral districts.

Crop growth had been generally satisfactory in Saskatchewan. Moisture conditions were favorable in the southeastern and south central areas, but elsewhere rain had been light, and additional rains were needed. Wire-worm damage to crops is reported severe in the open prairie areas of the Province. Grasshoppers are continuing to hatch and damage, which has so far been negligible, is expected to increase. Moisture has been ample to excessive over Manitoba, and all crops were reported growing rapidly in late June. At that time, some seeding was still being done in areas where heavy rains and flooding had delayed operations.

The season has been an unusually late one for Canada. After the late winter break-up, temperatures were generally well below normal, and seeding did not become general until in mid-May in Saskatchewan and Alberta. With minor exceptions, little work had been done on the land in Manitoba up to that time, largely because of floods. Comparison with seeding dates for the past 10 years points up the lateness of the current season.

Seeding dates in Canada's Prairie Provinces

Year	Date on which seeding became general -		
	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
1940	April 19	May 2	May 10
1941	April 26	May 1	April 28
1942	April 13	May 2	May 2
1943	April 19	May 4	May 19
1944	April 17	April 29	April 28
1945	May 13	May 10	May 8
1946	April 20	April 29	April 30
1947	May 6	May 9	May 10
1948	May 12	May 13	May 21
1949	May 2	April 29	May 11
	:	:	:

Surface moisture conditions were generally adequate at the beginning of the growing season, but subsoil reserves were deficient in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Crop outturns there will, as a consequence, be more than usually dependent on adequate and timely rainfall throughout the growing season. The floods that delayed seeding in Manitoba reduced the expected grain acreage in that Province, with little grain expected to be harvested on an estimated half million acres of crop land affected in the Red River Valley.

AUSTRALIA PLANS INCREASED BULK WHEAT STORAGE FACILITIES

Construction of four wheat storage sub-terminals is planned in the Australian State of New South Wales, according to an announcement of the Minister of Agriculture for that State. Each of the storage units is to have a capacity of 3 million bushels, thus increasing bulk handling facilities by 12 million bushels.

The increase of that amount should make it possible to handle the coming wheat harvest more satisfactorily than crops of recent seasons. (Production of wheat in New South Wales in 1949-50 was 83 million bushels.) The Minister of Agriculture said that the principal purpose of this type of storage was to facilitate the movement of wheat during the receiving season, with quick service from silos to sub-terminals.

The terminals are to be strategically located to serve silos in the southern, southwestern, west central, and northern sections of the State. The locations were named as Junee, Temora, Parkes and Merris Creek. Each unit is to have an intake capacity of more than 9,000 bushels of wheat per hour.

An earlier announcement stated that country silo capacity was to be increased by building new bins at 12 country silo stations in the State. In each the storage capacity was to be increased from 30,000 bushels to 150,000 bushels. Plans were also being prepared to increase the capacity of the terminal elevator at Newcastle from 800,000 bushels to 2.8 million bushels. This will permit shipping more wheat from northern and northwestern districts through that port.

CUBAN 1950-51 RICE-IMPORT QUOTA STILL UNDETERMINED

The Cuban cabinet on June 22 approved a draft decree providing in effect that while the new rice-import quota year will begin July 1, the yearly quota will not be fixed until about the time the original GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) quota of 3.25 million quintals (330 million pounds) is filled. Until such time, importers can proceed to fill the GATT quota.

MALAYA HARVESTS
LARGE RICE CROP

Malaya's 1949-50 rice harvest of 1,422 million pounds rough was the largest on record. Production was 330 million pounds more than a year earlier, and was above the prewar (1935-36/39-40) average. Favorable weather permitted an increase in acreage and continued generally favorable for rice production through the season.

MALAYA: Rice production and trade, average
1935-36, annual 1945-46/49-50

Year	Yield		Production		Net im- ports 1/	Production	
	Acreage	per	In terms	of milled		plus	imports
	1,000	acre	Rough	(Milled)		(Milled)	imports
	acres	Pounds	pounds	pounds	Million	Million	Million
Average:							
1935-36/39-40:	746	1,635	1,219.6	854	1,376	2,230	
1945-46.....:	790	1,062	839.2	587	536	1,123	
1946-47.....:	797	1,147	914.5	640	520	1,160	
1947-48.....:	862	1,368	1,179.3	826	1,018	1,844	
1948-49.....:	907	1,204	1,092.2	765	1,122	1,887	
1949-50.....:	920	1,546	1,422.2	996	-	-	

1/ For calendar year following harvest.

Compiled from official sources.

Rice imports during the first quarter of 1950 totaled 93 million pounds, nearly all from Thailand. Up to May 15, Malaya had contracted for purchases during the season of 1,040 million pounds from Thailand, of which 270 million pounds are to be delivered to Hong Kong, 55 million to the United Kingdom, 55 million to the Borneo Territories, and the remainder of 660 million pounds to the Federation of Malaya and Singapore.

Purchase from Burma of approximately 45 million pounds of rice in terms of milled was arranged during the January-March quarter of 1950. This was sharply below the volume usually contracted at that time of season.

MALAYA: Rice imports, January-March, 1950,
with comparisons

Country of origin	Average 1934-38	1949	January-March 1950
	: Million pounds	: Million pounds	: Million pounds
Burma.....	500	362	1
Australia.....	0	18	1/
Italy.....	0	22	0
Egypt.....	0	129	0
Indochina.....	62	6	1/
Thailand.....	996	588	92
Other countries.....	18	10	1/
Total.....	1,576	1,135	93

1/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Compiled from official sources.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTSDANISH BRED SOW
NUMBERS RISE

Bred sow numbers in Denmark, according to May 20 census, are 14 percent larger than those in May of 1949. Since the March 25, 1950 census, the upswing in bred sows has occurred largely in the sows bred to farrow for the first time. This class increased by 38,000 head during the March 25-May 20 period, while other bred sows remained practically unchanged. Although suckling pigs and pigs and slaughter hogs increased by 10 and 50 percent, respectively from a year earlier, these classes, however, declined by 7 and 2 percent respectively between the March 25 and May 30 censuses. Similarly, the total number of hogs were 34 percent larger than those of May 1949, but 2 percent below the number reported on March 25, 1950.

The demand for pigs has strengthened and prices increased about 18 percent during the month of May. This has occurred due to larger quantities of skim milk becoming available at creameries for hog feeding. Apparently, early pasturing of cows have increased milk production. This situation accounts for the sharp increase in the number of sows to farrow for the first time.

Hog numbers, by classes, for the last census period, were reported as follows, with comparable figures for May 1949 in parentheses: Bred sows 273,000 (240,000); total sows 374,000 (340,000); suckling pigs 637,000 (579,000); pigs and slaughter hogs 2,127,000 (1,419,000) and total, including boars, 3,150,000 (2,349,000). (For other comparative data see Foreign Crops and Markets, May 8, 1950).

CANADIAN HATCH CONTINUES
BELOW 1949

The Canadian hatch in approved hatcheries through May of this year is reported at about 47 million chicks, which is 14.6 percent below the comparable period in 1949. A relative further decline is expected, as the eggs in incubators at the first of June were 45 percent under the same date in 1949. By June of this year, the hatch is expected to be 18 percent below the comparable period a year earlier.

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

ECUADOR'S CACAO
PRODUCTION DROPS

Ecuador's 1949-50 cacao production was estimated in May at about 33.0 million pounds, 24 percent below the revised estimate of 44.8 million pounds for 1948-49, according to the American Consulate General in Guayaquil. The decrease is attributed to cooler weather than usual in the latter part of 1949 and abnormally dry weather during the first quarter of 1950.

Ecuador's annual domestic consumption of cacao beans is estimated at around 1.8 million pounds; therefore, the current crop is expected to provide about 31.2 million pounds for export.

Exports of cacao beans from Ecuador in 1949 amounted to 42.1 million pounds. Of this total, 26.1 million pounds went to the United States, 5.1 million to Colombia, 3.9 million to Belgium, and 3.5 million to Italy. Other important destinations were Chile, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Sweden.

Late News

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Belgium resumed imports of butter from the Netherlands June 19. Such imports had been stopped since May 1, 1950. Importers may purchase up to 50 percent of their basic quota. Imported butter now is subject to an import fee of about 18 cents per pound which makes prices to consumers approximately 71 cents per pound. This action was taken to lower the retail price to about that of imports as domestic prices have risen to about 81 cents per pound due to a seasonal drop in indigenous production.

